



Supporting Quotes: The Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act (DSOSA)

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director, Anti-Defamation League:

“We can no longer let Big Tech self-regulate—it has spread virulent hate, enabled on-the-ground violence, and significantly contributed to a fractured democracy—all in service of profit. We need the government to ensure platforms are protecting consumers rather than protecting their bottom line. But government cannot effectively hold Tech accountable unless it also appropriates adequate resources to do so. The creation and funding of an oversight body—such as the Bureau of Digital Services Oversight and Safety within the FTC—is absolutely vital to repair our internet. That is why ADL is encouraged by the efforts in this act to scale resources for enforcement, enhance platform transparency, and issue best practices to address systemic risks on platforms.”

Laurel Lehman, Policy Analyst, Consumer Reports:

“The Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act of 2022 recognizes the scale and urgency of the myriad harms consumers face online. Representative Trahan’s bill offers a novel approach that would empower the Federal Trade Commission, the public, and public interest researchers to investigate the ways online platforms impact consumers and the information ecosystem. This legislation would also provide more accountability and responsibility for the largest online platforms by requiring comprehensive evaluations of systemic risks across their product design and related practices. CR thanks Representative Trahan for her determined leadership on platform accountability, and we look forward to working with Congress to secure a more transparent and accountable online information ecosystem for all consumers.”

Tracy Rosenberg, Executive Director, Media Alliance:

“When profit-driven imperatives control much of our social media feeds, we see different content based on who we are. This results in discriminatory outcomes, increased polarization, the spread of misinformation, and the use of our most personal characteristics to manipulate our perceptions of the world. This should not go on in a black box where we cannot see under the hood to measure what is happening to us. Social media has changed the world in both positive and negative ways. We should be able to reap the benefits without sacrificing our civil and human rights, if not the health of our democracy itself. The Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act of 2022 is needed to find that balance.”

Nathan Miller, Campaign Director, Avaaz:

“Social media platforms profit from toxic content – content that undermines our democracy, amplifies discrimination and hatred, and blocks progress on the key challenges we face in the US and across the world. Yet tech giants have been able to evade responsibility for those harms because their systems are shrouded in secrecy. The Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act would end that evasion, bringing transparency, reporting, independent audits, and data access to an industry that's operated far too long without oversight.”

Paul Barrett, Deputy Director, NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights:

“By empowering the FTC to conduct meaningful oversight of major social media platforms, the Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act would take us a big step toward the transparency and accountability we urgently need in the tech industry.”

Imran Ahmed, CEO, Center for Countering Digital Hate:

“Despite the enormous harm that Big Tech is causing to society, there are no rules, no accountability, and no sense of moral imperative from these companies. Big Tech is following the playbook of Big Oil and Big Tobacco by going to great lengths to prevent lawmakers, researchers and the public from understanding their platforms and the harms that they cause. Representative Trahan's legislation will help to deliver the transparency and accountability that's needed to assess and address these harms and put an end to the Big Tech strategy of denying reality, deflecting responsibility and delaying action. It's been designed in a way that maximizes partnerships with civil society, academics, across government and with comparable jurisdictions overseas. This is critical for an effective strategy to eliminate online harm in a global environment. CCDH is grateful for Representative Trahan's leadership and the hard work of her staff on this issue, and hope that Congress can act on this legislation in a bipartisan way.”

Irene Ly, Policy Counsel, Common Sense Media:

“Rep. Trahan’s proposal to create a Digital Services Oversight and Safety Bureau within the Federal Trade Commission would provide needed transparency and oversight into how online platforms engage in practices like content moderation and the amplification of content. This bill would help get us closer to making online platforms safer for kids and families and more accountable to all users by pulling the curtain back on how platforms operate.”

Jesse Lehrich, Co-Founder, Accountable Tech:

“For far too long, the tech companies at the center of our information ecosystem have been shielded from transparency and accountability; the societal harms wrought by those that systemically prioritize profits over people have been – quite literally – immeasurable. Congresswoman Trahan's Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act would bring about a fundamental paradigm shift, finally empowering users, researchers, and policymakers to look under the hood and hold platforms to account.”

Nathalie Marechal, Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager, Ranking Digital Rights:

“Ranking Digital Rights welcomes the introduction of the Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act. Platform accountability is a multifaceted problem, and this is a complex bill that tackles the interlocking challenges of free expression, privacy, and corporate accountability thoughtfully while providing much-needed additional capacity to the FTC. We look forward to engaging with Representative Trahan, other lawmakers, and our colleagues in civil society to fine-tune the details.”

Dr. Hany Farid, Professor, University of California, Berkley:

“For too long we have trusted the titans of tech to keep us, our societies, and our democracies safe. After two decades of abuses and missteps, it has become clear that they are unable or unwilling to act in our best interest. The time has come to install the proper safeguards. DSOSA is precisely the type of bold and forward-looking initiative that is needed to move the internet from a tool of abuse, hate, and fraud, towards its original promise to democratize access to knowledge and make the world a more open and understanding place.”